Groundbreaking celebrates partnership between SVMHS and college programs

Hartnell joined with the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System (SVMHS) to break ground Dec. 12 on our new Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System Center for Nursing & Health Sciences, named in recognition of the system’s $3 million donation to help the college prepare more students for careers in the healthcare professions.

The two-story, 24,000-square-foot facility on the Main Campus in Salinas, scheduled to open by Fall 2021, will expand student capacity and provide a flexible, state-of-the-art teaching environment for our students. The construction is being funded by Measure T bonds, approved by voters in 2016.

This was our third groundbreaking in six weeks on construction projects funded by Measure T bonds, including the new Soledad Education Center on Nov. 4 and the expansion of the King City Education Center on Dec. 3. It is hard to overstate the profound impact these Measure T projects will have on our students, the Hartnell Community College District and the entire Central Coast region.

I joined with others to express our sincere thanks to SVMHS President/CEO Pete Delgado and the system’s board of directors for their continuing partnership with Hartnell and their generous gift to Hartnell’s Nursing and Allied Health programs, with the specific purpose of fully leveraging this new center.

I also thanked Jackie Cruz, vice president for advancement and development and the Hartnell College Foundation, and Dr. Debra Kaczmar, dean of Academic Affairs for Nursing and Allied Health, for their work to inform SVMHS leadership of the opportunities to help grow our college’s programs in healthcare professions. We are so proud of the contributions our graduates make in the fields of nursing, respiratory care and emergency medical response—right here in the Salinas Valley. SVMHS alone has hired 137 of our graduates since 2015.

Representing SVMHS at the groundbreaking ceremony were Dr. Norman Nelson, a retired Salinas obstetrician and now a director on the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System board, and Adrienne Laurent, the system’s chief strategic communications officer (pictured).
his remarks, Dr. Nelson underscored the advantages of hiring Hartnell-educated professionals for high-demand roles in the SVMH system.

“The more we can have in our hospital who are locally grown and locally trained and locally educated, I think everybody benefits from that,” he said. “We’re all fortunate that Hartnell College will continue to supply many of these essential staff needs.”

In addition to many nursing, respiratory care and emergency medical technician students in the audience, two Respiratory Care Practitioner program students, Neftali Lazara (pictured, left) and Jasmine Salazar, shared their experience and highlighted the benefits of the new building.

“This building will be beneficial to all of our programs because, just like in a hospital ... everybody comes together to save a patient,” Salazar said. “So having everybody in the same building and having more room for simulation labs will give us more opportunity to work together, and when we actually go out there we'll be more comfortable working as a team, and ultimately the patient will be the one that will benefit from that.”

We were also pleased to hear from Salinas Mayor Joe Gunther, Salinas Union High School District Superintendent Dan Burns and representatives of three elected officials: Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo, Assembly Member Robert Rivas and State Sen. Anna Caballero.

Following the program of speakers, the presenters and Hartnell Governing Board Vice President Pat Donohue and Trustees Manuel Osorio and Irma Lopez took part in the ceremonial groundbreaking (pictured). The project site is at the corner of West Alisal Street and Homestead Avenue, formerly Parking Lot 3.

**New signs in Castroville foretell construction of Hartnell center**

Two large signs along Merritt Street just east of Highway 1 in Castroville now mark the site where, by spring of 2022, a new education and outreach center for Hartnell College will serve students from throughout north Monterey County.

The signs, installed Dec. 5, are also a special point of pride for Governing Board member Manuel Osorio, who represents north county and has long advocated for the college to establish a center there.

“Before I became a board member for Hartnell, I was a member of the North Monterey County Unified School District board, and I saw that a lot of our students were not moving on to Hartnell,” said Osorio, pictured with one of the new signs. “But
now that we’re opening this building, our north county students will have more opportunity to take advantage of what Hartnell has to provide – and Hartnell has a lot to provide.”

Funded by Measure T bonds, construction of the new 13,750-square-foot North Monterey County Education Center is expected to start this coming summer, following design approval by the Division of the State Architect. The single-story building will have three classrooms, wet and dry science laboratories and a community room.

I joined Osorio and other members of the Hartnell board, as well as local elected and education leaders for a photo at the Castroville site on Dec. 5. Pictured from left are: Susan Osorio, who is the north county representative for the Monterey County Commission on Disabilities; John Phillips, Monterey County District 2 supervisor; Aurelio Salazar Jr., Hartnell Governing Board president; Candi DePauw, Hartnell trustee; Dr. Patricia Hsieh, Hartnell superintendent-president; Emily Tsai Brownfield, director of 21st-century learning and innovation for the North Monterey County Unified School District; Liann Reyes, assistant superintendent for business services for the north county district; and Trustee Osorio.

Child Development Center sends preschool carolers around campus

Children from the morning preschool group at the Hartnell Child Development Center made a round of holiday visits on the Main Campus Thursday, including a stop in the President’s Office.

The children wished me and others happy holidays, gave us a plate of cookies and sang “Feliz Navidad” and “Jingle Bells.” They were delightful.

President’s Circle reception honors and thanks donors and volunteers

An annual tradition, the President’s Circle Holiday Reception packed a tremendous amount of appreciation and recognition into a short evening program on Dec. 11 in the atrium of the Center for Performing Arts.

Donors who support Hartnell at the President’s Circle giving level enjoyed wine, hors d’oeuvres and sweets as they heard greetings and gratitude from me, from Jackie Cruz,
vice president of advancement and development and the Hartnell College Foundation, which organized the event.

I was proud to share our impressive gains in degree completion and transfer rates in recent years, which include a 157 percent increase in degrees awarded since 2011-12. I took the opportunity to thank our Board of Trustees and all of our employees for their dedication and hard work. Of course, I also thanked our generous donors, who make such a difference for students through scholarships and help with books and expensive supplies, such as $3,500 tool sets for students in our Automotive Technology program.

Cruz recognized outgoing president of the foundation board, Kurt Gollnick, and outgoing board members, including Teri Belli, David Warner and past president Anne Secker (pictured, from left to right). She also welcomed six new board members and gave special recognition to Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System for their continued investment in Hartnell and its students.

Two students – Maricarmen Gonzalez Coronado and Angelita Cisneros-Aguilar – and recent nursing graduate Stephanie Fierro shared their experiences, and visual arts instructor Eric Bosler spoke about the STEMArts program. Two Killian music scholars – Noel Padua (clarinet) and Jaycen Florez (euphonium) – performed to begin the evening.

With her remarks, Cisneros-Aguilar (pictured), an agriculture production student, summed up what makes this college so special and important.

“Here at Hartnell you’re not a number, you matter,” she said. “Our students are people who will make a difference in the future and especially in this valley. I was born and raised in the Salinas Valley, and I know I will help make this valley a better place. I just want to thank everyone who has helped me throughout my journey.”

**Services and support help students during Finals Week**

With everything from a free cup of hearty soup in the Student Center to Study-a-Thons and extended hours for library and tutoring services, Hartnell extended extra to help to students during Finals Week, Dec. 9-13.

Panther Academic Support Services kept Panther Learning Labs open well into the evening, and the Library & Learning Resource Center opened early, at 7:30 a.m., to accommodate students seeking a place to cram.
The Office of Student Life and Associated Students of Hartnell College presented Soup-er Finals Week, with free soup for students to fuel up before or after their final exams. The soups were chicken noodle, pozole, vegetable, caldo de res and albondigas (meatball).

Thank you to all the staff and faculty who went the extra mile to help our students achieve academic success!

**Students focus on justice and equity in Nov. 16 pre-professional training**

Hartnell’s Teacher Pathway Program (TPP) and MAESTROs programs partnered with Cal State Monterey Bay on Nov. 16 to provide more than 100 students with a pre-professional training opportunity focused on topics of social justice and equity in the school and classroom setting.

Three presenters, who were all doctoral candidates at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, guided participants through various activities that explored their own identity and implications for equity. They were: Eric D. Becerra, former High School Equivalency Program director; Jamaal L. Williams, a former high school principal; and Timothy A. Moriarty, a former academic director for a regional school district.

Said Jesús Clemente, coordinator for TPP and MAESTROs at Hartnell, “Our future teachers can benefit from such knowledge to guide curriculum development and to make schools more just, equitable and safe.”

**Special holiday hours for The Grille and Starbucks**

Food Services Supervisor Lea Miller shared a reminder that both The Grille dining facility in the Student Center and the center’s popular new Starbucks location will be closed during the week of Dec. 16-20.

Starbucks will open back up on Jan. 6 with shortened hours, Monday-Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday until 1. Both The Grille and Starbucks will resume normal operating hours on Jan. 21.

**In the News**

Hartnell turns to military veteran for leadership:  
https://www.montereyherald.com/2019/12/12/college-mens-basketball-hartnell-turns-to-military-veteran-for-leadership/

**Upcoming Events**

**Note:** All event locations are on the Main Campus in Salinas unless otherwise noted.

**STEM Internship Programs - Enroll Now!**  
https://www.hartnell.edu/academics-affairs/academics/stem/intern/

**Men’s Basketball vs. Cabrillo**  
5 p.m.  
Wednesday, Jan. 8  
Hartnell Gymnasium

**Women’s Basketball vs. Mission**  
5 p.m.  
Wednesday, Jan. 15  
Hartnell Gymnasium

**Men’s Basketball vs. West Valley**  
7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Jan. 15  
Hartnell Gymnasium

**Women’s Basketball vs. San Jose City**  
5 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 17  
Hartnell Gymnasium

**Men’s Basketball vs. San Jose City**  
7 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 17  
Hartnell Gymnasium

**Women’s Basketball vs. Ohlone**  
5 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 24  
Hartnell Gymnasium

**Women’s Basketball vs. De Anza**  
5 p.m.  
Wednesday, Jan. 29  
Hartnell Gymnasium
Men’s Basketball vs. De Anza
7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29
Hartnell Gymnasium

Women’s Basketball vs. Cabrillo
5 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31
Hartnell Gymnasium

Men’s Basketball vs. Cabrillo
7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 31
Hartnell Gymnasium

Walk of Honor Order Deadline
Jan. 31